



**Margaret Huang
Executive Director**

Dear Friend,

They are sleeping on the ground, their blankets soaked with water. They live without proper bathrooms, and disease is beginning to spread in the makeshift camp.

This, a Syrian woman camped at Idomeni, Greece, told Amnesty International researchers, was how she and other refugees there were living.

The reason this woman, who was nine months pregnant, had to undertake the perilous journey was to settle her children in a safe environment. Her story is emblematic of why millions of refugees have taken desperate measures to protect their families.

Yet the disastrous humanitarian conditions that have greeted them are shining a harsh light on the catastrophic moral failure of world leaders who posture and squabble among themselves while callously leaving millions of people to suffer.

In unimaginable numbers, people throughout the world are being forced from their homes by armed conflict, persecution, and extreme violence. One in every 113 people on Earth is now a refugee, internally displaced person, or asylum-seeker.

As President Trump attempts to close the U.S. borders to refugees and people seeking asylum, ban people from certain Muslim-majority countries, and further militarize our southern border, the future of tens of millions of refugees displaced by violence and oppression becomes all the more precarious.

At a moment that demands strong humanitarian leadership, the bigoted and cruel actions of the Trump administration have sent a chilling message—Refugees are NOT Welcome.

The Trump administration has sanctioned hate. But today, I want to ask you to send your own message, one of hope and solidarity, to every child, woman, or man in search of refuge.

Enclosed you will find a document—a Pledge to Welcome Refugees—which I urge you to review and then sign.

(over, please)

In the face of this global refugee crisis, and at this critical moment in history, we are reaching out to people like you and asking you to lend your voice to those of Amnesty International members in the United States and around the world in sending this important message to leaders here in the United States and abroad. Our message is simple but powerful: We Welcome Refugees.

And when you sign your **Pledge**—as I sincerely hope that you will—I urge you also to include a tax-deductible contribution to help Amnesty stop President Trump from turning our country's back on refugees, and to advocate for the rights of refugees around the world.

Our cause—and your support—has never been more urgent. The global refugee crisis is the worst since World War II. It is a crisis in which, daily, millions suffer dehumanizing living conditions and human rights violations.

President Trump's actions and statements will embolden leaders in country after country to follow suit, leaving millions of refugees with nowhere to turn.

The crisis is acute for the people of Syria, one of the countries Trump has targeted. Caught in the midst of a deadly civil war, nearly 12 million Syrians have fled their homes, with more than five million people, half of whom are children, seeking refuge outside the country. Neighboring states are bearing the brunt of the refugee crisis, housing 99 percent of the 5.1 million Syrian children, women, and men who have made the wrenching decision to leave their homes.

Yet the international community's response to this humanitarian crisis has been disgraceful, allowing Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt to shoulder the burden of addressing the refugees' immediate needs.

Without sufficient financial support from wealthier countries, aid agencies have had to reduce humanitarian assistance, which means cuts to basic necessities such as food rations and medical care. Five years into the crisis, the vast majority of Syrian refugee adults still have no right to work, and Syrian children are not attending school. Seventy-one percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live below the poverty line, as well as 90 percent of Syrian refugees living in Jordan.

These disastrous humanitarian conditions are a damning indictment of the President's inhumane policies toward refugees. The irrefutable fact is that no refugee comes to the United States without documentation or without extensive vetting by multiple U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Yet, by stirring up society's worst instincts of prejudice and bigotry, the Trump administration is exploiting the public's genuine need for security in ways that could have disastrous consequences for human rights.

What makes the Trump administration's actions even more unacceptable is that they not only violate international law, but that they are also out of step with the principles this country was founded on, and they defy the will of the American people. Last year, Amnesty released a groundbreaking survey which found that 72 percent of people in the U.S. would welcome more refugees into the country.

Refugees need protection, not more obstacles thrust in their way. All refugees have a right to seek and enjoy asylum, and the U.S. and other wealthy countries can and must take action to help people fleeing war and persecution.

(next page, please)

That is why I'm asking you to join Amnesty International and play an integral role in our campaign to promote and defend the rights, security and dignity of refugees around the world.

Because, right now, refugees need to know they have not been forgotten.

What is happening here in the United States is just one part of a disastrous, global failure of leadership. Last year, at a high-level summit on the refugee crisis, the UN General Assembly collectively and spectacularly failed the 22.5 million refugees of the world. The aim of the UN Summit was to share responsibility for all refugees among the 193 countries in the world. Right now, more than half of all refugees are living in just 10 of these countries.

World leaders said that they would cooperate, but agreed to no actual plan—deferring specific action until later. **Refugees like the woman we met in Greece, living in dehumanizing conditions in a makeshift camp, do not have time to wait.**

Lives are at stake and it is imperative that we stand in solidarity with refugees. Your support will help support Amnesty's all-out fight to stop President Trump's bigoted efforts to ban immigrants and refugees fleeing violence and persecution.

We must also work to ensure that other countries do not exploit the United States' shameful abdication of responsibility for refugees as justification for their own anti-refugee policies.

With your support, Amnesty will continue to demand that the leaders of the world take immediate, concrete steps such as: significantly increasing the number of resettlement places available to refugees globally; creating more safe and legal routes for refugees and asylum-seekers; and ensuring that the rights of **all** refugees are protected.

There is no losing this fight—or the consequences will be dire.

We can ensure that people who have had to flee their homes and countries, through no fault of their own, can rebuild their lives in safety elsewhere only if the United States and other world leaders work together, and share the responsibility. The cost of failing to act is that we leave millions in grave danger, and the most vulnerable may not survive because they cannot get the help they need.

But time is running out. That is why I urge you to sign the enclosed Pledge to Welcome Refugees and return it along with your most generous contribution to Amnesty International.

Your response and your contribution today will help us accelerate our work advocating on behalf of refugees and increase our ability to advocate for their rights, safety and dignity around the world.

Now more than ever, it is also important to have conversations with others in our communities—and even in our own homes—about refugee rights and to respond to the criticism and concerns that arise. You can help change people's hearts and minds about this global crisis by sharing with them the enclosed facts, and work to counter the anti-refugee rhetoric, fear, and xenophobic attacks.

(over, please)

Furthermore, I hope that you will use the special free address labels I've enclosed for all your correspondence.

Amnesty International's logo, the candle of hope burning brightly amid barbed wire, appears on these labels. When you use them, you'll be demonstrating your commitment to human rights and also help us gather the support of others.

Stopping President Trump from turning our country's back on refugees is a defining moment for the United States. As we stand in solidarity with those fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and elsewhere, Amnesty International needs your support more than ever before. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Huang". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" and last name "Huang" clearly legible.

Margaret Huang
Executive Director

P.S. The poet Warsan Shire wrote "No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land." If we don't act, people will die—from drowning, from preventable diseases in wretched camps or detention centers, or from being forced back into the conflict zones they are fleeing.

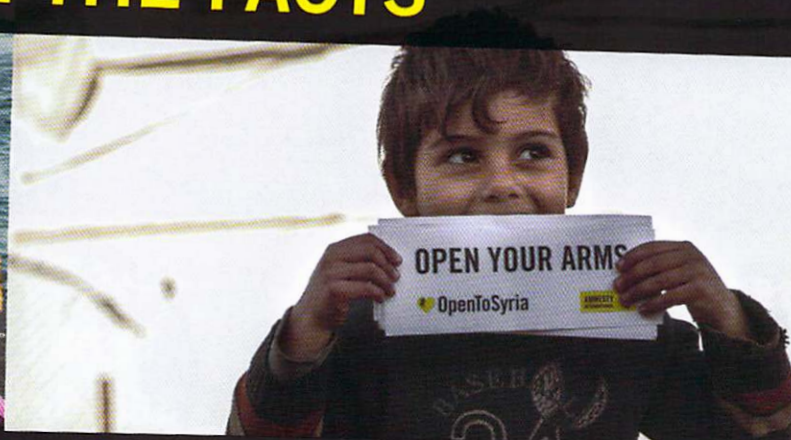
Help support Amnesty International's all-out fight to stop Trump from slamming the door on refugees, and advocate for the rights, safety and dignity of refugees around the world by making an urgent contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more today. And, please, sign and return your Pledge to Welcome Refugees so we can add your voice to that of others as we communicate to policymakers in Washington and around the world a simple but powerful message: We Welcome Refugees. Please be a part of this lifesaving movement.

WHERE ARE SYRIANS GOING?

12 million Syrians have fled their homes in fear ... half of them are children. More than 5 million of them have left the country and become refugees. Today, 99% of Syrian refugees are hosted in just FIVE countries.



THESE ARE THE FACTS



Don't allow rhetoric that serves to only inflame hate and violence at home and abroad go unchallenged.



THE WORLD IS IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST REFUGEE CRISIS IN RECENT HISTORY, WITH AROUND 22.5 MILLION REFUGEES ACROSS THE GLOBE. Millions of people are fleeing their homes because of war, armed conflict, violence and other factors that force them to leave. They cannot safely return to their homes, and they are incredibly vulnerable on their journey to find safety.



90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S REFUGEES ARE BEING HOSTED BY ONLY 10 COUNTRIES, AND MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO KEEP REFUGEES FED, HOUSED OR SAFE. Some refugees are surviving on less than 50 cents a day.



THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS IS LENGTHY, EXTREMELY DETAILED AND VERY SAFE. Only those Syrian refugees registered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and identified as being particularly at risk will be considered for U.S. resettlement. Globally, the UNHCR gives priority to the most vulnerable refugees, including torture survivors, people with serious medical conditions, children traveling alone and women and children at risk.



REFUGEES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. UNTIL ALL SECURITY SCREENINGS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED, and Syrians go through more security screenings than other refugees.



While countries retain their right to police their borders, they also have the duty to protect the rights of others and a legal and moral obligation to take in refugees when they have the means and capacity to do so—these two principles are not at odds with each other. **INDIVIDUAL STATES IN THE UNITED STATES CANNOT "OPT OUT" OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS ENTERED INTO BY THE UNITED STATES.**

**Stand With Those Fleeing War and Persecution—
Join Amnesty International and Help Save Refugees' Lives.**

STAND STRONG FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

☐ **YES!** I want to stop Trump's inhumane anti-refugee policies and protect the rights, security and dignity of people fleeing violence and persecution around the world.

☐ YES, I have signed and enclosed my Pledge to Welcome Refugees!

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to Amnesty International in the amount of:

☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____

[Redacted Address]

|||||



F7A0075724 P17KA343 5

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



5 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10001
(800) AMNESTY
amnestyusa.org

Donations to Amnesty International are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please make your check payable to Amnesty International USA and enclose it in the envelope provided. To charge your contribution to a credit card, see reverse side of this form or visit amnestyusa.org/joinus.

Do Not Detach

No Ban. No Wall. A Pledge to Welcome Refugees

Whereas...the global refugee crisis is the worst since World War II, and the UN General Assembly has failed the 22.5 million refugees of the world, deferring specific and urgently needed action until 2018...

Whereas...the Trump administration's anti-refugee policies serve only to turn the United States' back on those fleeing violence and persecution and do nothing to make us safer. This is anathema to our nation's longstanding bipartisan tradition of resettling refugees and treating them with dignity and respect of their rights...


Whereas...President Trump has signed a number of executive orders, including one calling for the construction of a wall along the U.S. southern border with Mexico, that undermine the human right to seek asylum...

Whereas...the world's wealthiest countries are not doing their fair share to address the global crisis by resettling refugees, fund humanitarian aid or host refugees in full respect of their rights...

Therefore...I call on the United States Congress to support and fund the continued resettlement of refugees in the United States, to ensure our asylum system is fair and effective, and to urge all countries to fulfill their legal obligation not to return refugees to any country where they would be persecuted and to treat them with dignity and full respect of their rights.

Respectfully, _____ Mr. [Redacted Name]

I want to charge my contribution in the amount of \$_____ to my:

☐  ☐  ☐  ☐ 

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____